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07/18/2013 Minutes

Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

Minutes: July 18, 2013, 7:00-9:00 PM

Approved: August 1, 2013

Art Room, Arlington Senior Center

Members present: Charles Kalauskas, Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Carol Svenson, Ann LeRoyer, Bob Radochia, Joe Barr, Pam Heidell, Greg Bowe

Members absent: Harris Band, Sheri Baron, Eric Bourassa

Also present: Consultant Judi Barrett (RKG Associates); Christine Scypinski (ARB), Steve Byrne (BoS); resident Peter Howard; Laura Wiener and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes of June 25, 2013 were amended and approved (6 approved, 1 abstention (not present 6/25)).

Report on progress of Goals Working Groups:

- Joe Barr and Monica Tibbits-Nutt reported on the progress of the Land Use/Transportation group. They held separate meetings for each of these topics, meeting on July 11 and July 16; selected groups were invited to participate; as well, the meeting was open to the public. They will regroup on 7/26 to pull the material together and work on goal creation.
- The Natural and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation group met on July 16; selected groups were invited to participate; as well, the meeting was open to the public; all four of the elements were addressed. This group will meet again on August 22 to discuss the draft goals.
- The Housing and Economic Development working group has scheduled a meeting for July 25.
- Charlie Kalauskas and Bob Radochia reported on the progress of the Public Facilities working group; they have met with the Capital Planning Committee, and will have outreach to the Finance Committee. They are scheduling a discussion group for selected invitees – open to the public, to occur in mid-August.

Action: Working groups will continue to meet to prepare draft goals for presentation to the full Master Plan Advisory Committee in September.

Master Plan Vision – process and timetable:

Judi Barrett announced that the August 1 meeting would be devoted to this topic; Ezra Glenn would be present to facilitate the discussion.

Outreach steps for fall 2013:

- Forum for local businesses – There was discussion about whether the outreach to the business community should be based on the business district (Arl. Heights, Town Center, Capital Square areas) and result in three sessions, or whether a single meeting of all interested parties should occur, as the end product will be a *single whole town plan*. While

acknowledging the three separate business regions, discussion highlighted the idea that a single meeting would bring parties together – and break-out sessions at the meeting could be done by business region.

Action: A forum for business participants should be held by early November.

2. Teen participation – There was broad discussion regarding this outreach target – age group, time of day, location (in school, or outside of school), content. A task group (Monica Tibbits-Nutt and Carol Svenson) will work with Judi Barrett to develop this teen outreach program.

Action: Judi Barrett, Monica Tibbits-Nutt and Carol Svenson will work further on the details of this outreach program.

- Web-based public input – Director Carol Kowalski is looking into this; there is nothing to report at this time.
- Neighborhood needs assessments – There was concern about how to define the “neighborhoods” – use schools? use parks? use precincts? etc. Some questioned whether we should do this at all – and there was a sense of the meeting that there was no need to do this.
- Town Day participation – Sept. 21 – A Town Day working group was formed, composed of Charlie Kalauskas, Ann LeRoyer, Greg Bowe, and Bob Radochia. Their focus would be on what to have as the content, and possible activity, of the booth.

Action: The working group will decide what the focus of the Town Day outreach will be.

Action: A scheduling doodle will enable scheduling of individuals to “man” the Town Day booth.

- Farmers’ Market participation: The Master Plan Advisory Committee will not participate in the Farmers’ Market as an outreach effort.

Action: Notify Farmers’ Market leadership.

- Carol Svenson asked about the future process of this Master Plan effort; Judi Barrett explained the recent inventory and goals focus, noting the report that has a planned due date to the Town/Committee of October 18. A suggested meeting for discussion of this report should be scheduled; October 29/30 were dates suggested.

Action: A scheduling doodle will enable scheduling of this proposed meeting.

Public Comment:

Peter Howard spoke. He expressed concern that the master planning process was bypassing the Town Meeting, since the evening discussion of goals did not mention submission of developing materials being submitted to them. He recommended that the Finance Committee should be included in the discussions of the Public Facilities Working Group. He advocated for a more individual/personal approach to building consensus on the goals; he reminded the committee re the Town Goals as approved by Town Meeting.